



RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

Calling on the Federal Government to Make More Wireless Spectrum Available to Promote Economic Development, Increase Innovation in Education and Healthcare, and to Offer More Choices for Consumers

WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators (NAPACSL) consists of over 100 state elected officials with Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry;

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the United States, having increased 43.3% from 2000 to 2010;

WHEREAS, 18.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders currently represent 5.6% of the U.S. population, and are projected to increase to 6.5% by the year 2020, and to 9.3% by 2050;

WHEREAS, NAPACSL recognizes the hopes, aspirations, and concerns of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and works to advance these interests through public policy deliberations;

WHEREAS, extraordinary advances in information and communications technology have forever changed the way people interact with one another, and the wireless industry in particular has revolutionized society through new devices, services, and applications;

WHEREAS, the demand by Americans for wireless communications has surpassed its demand for wireline services as the latest fourth generation (4G) wireless technology can provide speeds that match wireline services;

WHEREAS, Internet data traffic through wireless mobility has skyrocketed more than 275% since 2010 and is expected to increase another 26-fold by 2015;

WHEREAS, American leadership in mobile communications is being challenged by global competition as more than 150 carriers in 60 countries are working to deploy 4G services and other countries are on track to exceed American wireless spectrum supply, while the future competitiveness of America's wireless industry depends on the availability of more spectrum within the United States;

WHEREAS, in June 2010, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum entitled, "Unleashing the Wireless Broadband Revolution," declaring that "the world is going wireless, and we must not fall behind," and that the resurgence of American productivity growth largely reflects investments by American companies, the public sector, and citizens in the new communications technologies that created the Internet;

WHEREAS, the 2010 Presidential Memorandum acknowledges that expanded wireless broadband access will trigger the creation of innovative new businesses, provide cost-effective connections in rural areas, increase productivity, improve public safety, and allow for the development of mobile telemedicine, telework, distance learning, and other new applications that will transform Americans' lives;

WHEREAS, the 2010 Presidential Memorandum warns that this new era in global technology leadership will only happen if there is adequate spectrum available to support the forthcoming myriad of wireless devices, networks, and applications that can drive the new economy;

WHEREAS, the 2010 Presidential Memorandum charges the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other federal government agencies to develop a plan for making available 500 MHz of additional spectrum over the next 10 years;

WHEREAS, in his 2011 State of the Union address, President Obama announced his "Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative," setting the goal of enabling businesses to provide high-speed wireless services to at least 98 percent of all Americans within five years by freeing up 500 MHz of additional spectrum by using voluntary incentive auctions and more efficient use of government spectrum;

WHEREAS, in February 2012, the Obama Administration issued a report entitled, "The Economic Benefits of New Spectrum for Wireless Broadband," finding that the amount of wireless spectrum currently allocated to the private sector is insufficient to handle the projected growth in demand, even with technological improvements allowing for more efficient use of existing spectrum and significant investment in new facilities;

WHEREAS, the 2012 Obama Administration report concludes that the only feasible way to realize the full potential of wireless broadband is to make more new spectrum available for wireless services;

WHEREAS, in 2012, Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 which included the Spectrum Act, authorizing the FCC to conduct incentive auctions of spectrum originally held by broadcast television industry to be repurposed for new commercial wireless communications needs, and the FCC is working on its implementation;

WHEREAS, in June 2012, the FCC Chairman appointed the mHealth Task Force, consisting of a group of the nation's leading wireless healthcare technology experts from industry, government, and academia to assess the opportunities and challenges facing the adoption of wireless health technologies;

WHEREAS, after conducting extensive research and stakeholder outreach, the FCC mHealth Task Force recommended that the FCC should make more licensed mobile spectrum available to ensure reliable connectivity for spectrum-intensive healthcare services such, as live video, remote monitoring, radiological imaging, and other medical applications;

WHEREAS, in June 2013, President Obama announced his "ConnectED Initiative," challenging the FCC to connect 99% of America's students through next-generation broadband to, and high-speed wireless within, their schools and libraries with broadband speeds of no less than 100 Mbps and with a target of 1 Gbps;

WHEREAS, the ConnectED Initiative urges the private sector to innovate with educational devices supported by high-speed networks to expand the world of online learning and interactive content, create personalized education software that adapts to students' needs, and develop other breakthrough advances in assessing students' understanding and mastery of subjects;

WHEREAS, cutting-edge wireless devices that could replace printed textbooks, educational software that incorporates rich visualizations of complex concepts and foreign languages, and other digital learning technologies that create rigorous and engaging classes are all heavily dependent on the scarce spectrum currently available on school campuses;

WHEREAS, in June 2013, President Obama issued a second Presidential Memorandum entitled, "Expanding America's Leadership in Wireless Innovation," urging more spectrum be made available as promptly as possible for the benefit of consumers and businesses, while, at the same time, ensuring that federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments are able to maintain mission critical capabilities that depend on spectrum today and efficiently meet future requirements;

WHEREAS, the wireless industry's contributions to the economy have grown five times faster than the rest of the economy over the last decade and these investments support IT-intensive sectors such as education, healthcare, and energy;

WHEREAS, the broadband industry has invested nearly \$1.2 trillion dollars since 1996, and in 2012 alone, the American wireless carriers made \$30.1 billion in incremental capital investment, which averages about \$94 of private sector investment per subscriber;

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested in wireless broadband innovations generates an additional \$7 to 10 in national GDP, and, on average, wireless industry jobs pay 50% more than the national average of other production workers;

WHEREAS, America's wireless industry is ready to expand and improve the 4G networks by make significant investments of up to \$53 billion over the next four years, which could account for \$73 to \$151 billion in GDP growth and 371,000 to 771,000 new jobs;

WHEREAS, the "mobile app" economy has already created 466,000 American jobs since the iPhone was first introduced in 2007, and, as of September 2012, there are over 28 independent non-carrier app stores, offering over 2.7 million apps for eleven different operating systems;

WHEREAS, NAPACSL understands that 48% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders own and use mobile smartphones, which is a higher rate than any other ethnic or general population group in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, 87% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders enjoy access to the Internet, which is also a higher rate than any other ethnic or general population group, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders spend about three and a half times more time online than other groups;

WHEREAS, NAPACSL recognizes that the spectrum crunch in wireless demand could negatively impact Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as consumers, workers and entrepreneurs disproportionately than it would impact other population groups;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators applauds President Obama's Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative, which calls for nearly doubling the amount of spectrum available for wireless broadband in the next ten years, by freeing up 500 MHz of spectrum currently allocated for other uses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAPACSL calls upon the federal government to hasten its efforts to implement the President's goals of identifying and repurposing for commercial use spectrum currently used by government agencies as rapidly as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAPACSL applauds Congress for passing the Spectrum Act to repurpose spectrum held by the broadcast industry to be used for wireless broadband;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAPACSL calls upon the FCC to quickly implement incentive auctions in response to the Spectrum Act and allow all bidders to participate so that the government can raise the most revenues and the private sector investments can continue to make advancements in mobile technology and create jobs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAPACSL calls upon the federal government to develop policies and procedures to promote vibrant and healthy secondary markets that allow private sector institutions the flexibility to enter into agreements that make the best use of all spectrum assets; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Members of Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission.

SPONSORED BY: Representative Ken Ito, Hawaii

COMMITTEE: Economic Development Committee

ADOPTED ON AUGUST 13, 2013, AT ANNUAL MEETING IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

CERTIFIED BY: Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Washington, NAPACSL Chair